



California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Site Mitigation and
Brownfields Reuse Program

FACT SHEET: Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database ("CalSites" Database)

**SMBRPD Help Desk
(916) 323-3400**

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Introduction

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains an automated database that contains information on properties in California where hazardous substances have been released, or where the potential for a release exists. This database is known as "CalSites." For over a decade, CalSites has assisted DTSC staff, the public, the Legislature, federal, state and local agencies by providing a brief history of cleanup activities, contaminants of concern, and scheduled future cleanup activities. DTSC has just completed a project for improving public access to the CalSites Database information. In addition to making the database information accessible on the Internet, DTSC has also taken steps to clarify the data on both "confirmed" release sites (that meet the listing criteria in chapter 6.8, section 25356 of the Health and Safety Code), and a variety of "unconfirmed" hazardous substance release sites.

This fact sheet summarizes the transition from the CalSites Database to the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program Database (SMBRPD) and provides about contaminated or potentially contaminated properties in California. In addition, information is provided to those who may want to purchase a site Profile Report, or request special database reports.

THE NEW CALSITES DATABASE

One of the key reasons for the transition from the older CalSites database to the new database is to eliminate confusion about the many different types of properties that had been previously commingled within the old CalSites database. This transition is part of a system upgrade to provide more accurate and complete information to the public via the Internet.

The database displays information in six categories:

- CalSites Properties
- School Property Evaluation Program Properties

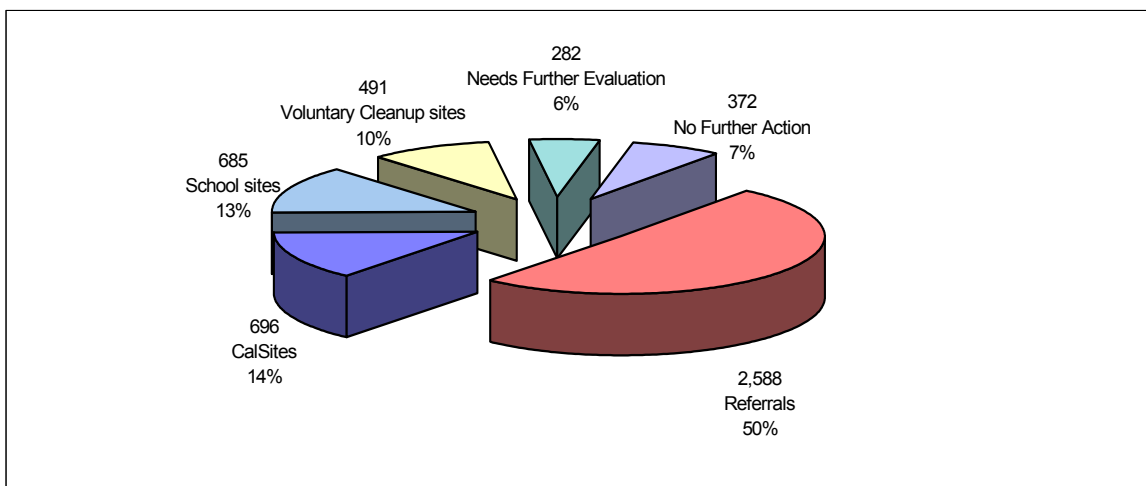
- Voluntary Cleanup Program Properties
- Unconfirmed Properties Referred to Another Local or State Agency
- Unconfirmed Properties Needing Further Evaluation
- Properties with No Further Action Determination

Each category contains information on properties, based on the type of work taking place at the site. For example, the older CalSites database is one of the six categories within the more complete SMBRPD and contains only confirmed sites considered to pose the greatest threat to the public and/or the environment, commonly known as State Superfund sites. Properties being evaluated by DTSC as potential public school sites will be found within the School Property Evaluation Program, and those properties undergoing voluntary investigation and/or cleanup are in the Voluntary Cleanup Program. The public can now search each of these categories and select site-specific profile reports via the Internet.

The SMBRPD Help Desk will provide database information for those who do not have Internet access.

A brief description for each of the six categories and definitions for sub-categories are provided below. The chart provides a breakdown by category.

Total number of Sites in SMBRPD is 5,114



SMBRPD Terminology

CALSITES - This category contains properties where hazardous substance releases have been confirmed. These sites are considered to pose the greatest threat to the public and the environment. These confirmed sites are generally high priority, high potential risk, and include military facilities, state "funded" or Responsible Party (RP) lead, and National Priorities List (NPL) sites.

Active Sites indicates a confirmed release site where DTSC is actively working to remediate, either in a lead role or support capacity. The active sites in this category are known as annual workplan sites and/or State Superfund sites.

Backlog indicates a confirmed release site that DTSC is not currently investigating or remediating. These Backlog sites generally become Active sites when staff and/or financial resources are available. Priorities for placing a site on Backlog are based on the degree of long-term threat posed by the property. Before placing a property in this sub-category, DTSC ensures that all necessary actions have been taken to protect the public and the environment from any immediate hazard posed by the property. Often there are no responsible parties available to fund the full cleanup of these properties.

Certified indicates that the property was previously identified as a confirmed release site and it has been subsequently certified by DTSC as having been remediated satisfactorily under DTSC oversight. Properties that have cleanups in place but require ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) are also listed in the certified sub-category. Generally, O&M activities (such as pumping and treating contaminated groundwater or maintaining an asphalt cap) must be continued or maintained for many years. Prior to a Certification with O&M designation, all institutional controls (e.g., land use restrictions) must be in place.

Expedited Remedial Action Program indicates that a property has been designated to participate in a pilot program pursuant to chapter 6.85 of the Health and Safety Code and is limited to 30 sites. These are confirmed release sites that are being actively worked on by the RPs with oversight of the cleanup by DTSC.

National Priorities List (NPL) Referrals indicates properties that are listed, proposed or delisted from the NPL, by United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and have been referred to DTSC's Hazardous Waste Management Program's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), or a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or other agencies.

SCHOOL PROPERTY EVALUATION PROGRAM - This category contains proposed and existing school sites that are being evaluated by DTSC for possible hazardous materials contamination. In some cases, these properties may be listed in the CalSites category depending on the level of threat to public health and safety or the environment they pose.

Active Properties indicates a potential school property where DTSC has entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement.

Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) in Progress indicates potential school properties where DTSC has entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement and the property is undergoing a PEA.

Agreement Completed indicates potential school properties where the scope of work in the Voluntary Cleanup Agreement has been completed. Please note that a completed agreement does not mean the property has been certified as being satisfactorily remediated under DTSC oversight.

No Action Determination indicates potential school property where a Phase I

Environmental Assessment has been completed.

No Further Action Determination indicates a potential school property that DTSC made a determination that the property does not pose a problem to the public health or the environment. This determination is typically based on the findings of a PEA.

Certified indicates that the potential school property was previously identified as a confirmed release site and it has been subsequently certified by DTSC as having been remediated satisfactorily under DTSC oversight. Properties that have cleanups in place but require ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) are also listed in the certified sub-category. Generally, O&M activities (such as pumping and treating contaminated groundwater or maintaining an asphalt cap) must be continued or maintained for many years. Prior to a Certification with O&M designation, all institutional controls (e.g., land use restrictions) must be in place.

Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Required indicates potential school properties where DTSC has determined a PEA is required.

VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM - This category contains low threat level properties with either confirmed or unconfirmed releases and the project proponents have requested that DTSC oversee investigation and/or cleanup activities and have agreed to provide coverage for DTSC's costs.

Active Properties indicates properties with either confirmed or unconfirmed releases and project proponents have requested that DTSC oversee investigation and/or cleanup activities and have agreed to provide coverage for DTSC's costs.

Agreement Completed indicates properties where the scope of work in the Voluntary Cleanup Agreement has been completed. Please note that a completed agreement does not mean the property has been certified as being satisfactorily remediated under DTSC oversight.

PEA in Progress indicates properties where DTSC has entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement and is currently conducting a PEA.

No Further Action Determination indicates properties that DTSC made a determination that the property does not pose a problem to the public health or the environment. This determination is typically based on the findings of a PEA.

Agreement Terminated indicates properties where the approved Voluntary Cleanup Agreement was terminated prior to the completion of the scope of work in the agreement.

Border Zone/Hazardous Waste Properties indicates properties that are formally designated BorderZone/Hazardous Waste Properties that went through the determination process provided by chapter 6.5 of the Health and Safety Code,

commencing with section 25220.

Certified indicates that the property was previously identified as a confirmed release site and it has been subsequently certified by DTSC as having been remediated satisfactorily under DTSC oversight. Properties that have cleanups in place but require ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) are also listed in the certified sub-category. Generally, O&M activities (such as pumping and treating contaminated groundwater or maintaining an asphalt cap) must be continued or maintained for many years. Prior to the Certification with O&M designation, all institutional controls (e.g., land use restrictions) must be in place.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Land Use indicates properties that went through the Border Zone/Hazardous Waste Properties determination process and entered into voluntary deed restrictions, but were not formally designated under chapter 6.5 of the Health and Safety Code as either a border zone or hazardous waste property.

CalMortgage Properties indicates properties where DTSC is conducting a Phase I Environmental Assessment or Supplemental Phase I Environmental Assessment. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Cal-Mortgage Loan Insurance Division, DTSC reviews and performs environmental assessments for their guaranteed loan insurance program for the construction, improvement and expansion of various health care facilities. These assessments part of the real estate due diligence process.

PROPERTIES NEEDING FURTHER EVALUATION - This category contains properties that are suspected of being contaminated. These are unconfirmed contaminated properties that need to be assessed using the PEA process.

PEA in Progress indicates properties where DTSC is currently conducting a PEA.

PEA Required indicates properties where DTSC has determined a PEA is required, but not currently underway.

NO FURTHER ACTION DETERMINATION - This category contains properties at which DTSC has made a clear determination that the property does not pose a problem to the environment or to public health. This determination is typically based on findings of a PEA.

Delisted Properties indicates properties where extensive investigation (beyond the PEA) and analysis of contamination at a confirmed release site revealed that the property conditions do not pose a significant public health or environmental hazard. The property is, therefore, removed (delisted) from the Active list of sites. Properties designated as *Adelisted* differ from “Certified” or “Certification with ongoing O&M” sites because no cleanup was necessary.

UNCONFIRMED PROPERTIES - This category contains properties where contamination

has not been confirmed and which were determined as not requiring direct DTSC Site Mitigation Program action or oversight. Accordingly, these sites have been referred to another state or local regulatory agency. The three current status codes used for referrals are:

REFRW indicates properties referred to Regional Water Quality Control Board.

REFRC indicates properties referred to DTSC's Hazardous Waste Program Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

REFOA indicates properties referred to other agencies, such as the California Integrated Waste Management Board, or a county agency.

Services Available To The Public

The following services are available by contacting the SMBRPD Help Desk:

SMBRPD Category Lists and Sub-Category Lists. Provides the site name, address, city, zip code, site status and county. (**Active Site List is free to the public.**)

Deed Restricted List. The purpose of recorded land use restrictions is to protect the public health and safety on contaminated land or the surrounding property when there is residual contamination on a property due to hazardous waste or substances left in place upon closure of a hazardous waste disposal facility, or left in place as part of either a short or long-term stabilization action, a corrective action, or a planned remedial action. DTSC provides a list of sites where deed restrictions have been recorded pursuant to site investigations and cleanups under DTSC oversight. This list provides the site name and street address, or an equivalent description. This list will be updated on a monthly basis (**15 cents per page**).

Profile Reports. These reports provide a summary of property information. Properties categorized in the CalSites, Expedited Remedial Action Program, and Voluntary Cleanup Program categories will have the most information because they are properties where DTSC has typically confirmed that a hazardous substance release has occurred or may occur (**15 cents per page**).

Short Summary Reports. These reports are available for searching specific zip codes or counties reflecting site name, address, city, current status and the corresponding site identification number. Description of specific site information is not included. The cost is \$20 per zip code and \$60 per county. (The county report for Los Angeles costs \$80 due to its volume.) Any requests for other types of database sorts or formats will be provided at an additional charge of \$5 per change.

Ziplist. A hard copy of the SMBRPD Ziplist, which contains all properties by zip

code including name, address, and status, generated from the SMBRPD database (\$100 per copy).

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLIS List). The CERCLIS List (which identifies the Federal Superfund sites and sites of Federal interest) is available for viewing by appointment. Copies are located at DTSC Headquarters in Sacramento.

Special Requests

If a specific report is requested that involves various database searches, data manipulations, and report development, DTSC may provide 'special' ad hoc reports (if determined feasible) at a cost of \$42.50 per first hour or portion of each additional hour. (Format changes or specific database sorts may be provided at an additional charge of \$10 per change.)

Government Entities

Federal, state, and local entities will generally receive all services and information free of charge unless significant amounts of data are requested. Requests from government entities must be verified prior to disseminating any information or service. Verification may be provided by letter or FAX with government seal.

Purchasing and Expediting

Persons requesting documents must contact the SMBRPD Help Desk. Requests for property inquiries should include complete property name and address with zip code to ensure quick and accurate database search.

When documents are requested, the SMBRPD Help Desk will send a letter to requestors, which provides the cost and the instructions for making payment. Requestors must send a copy of this letter to DTSC's Accounting Office at P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, California 95812-0806, along with a check or money order made out to the "Department of Toxic Substances Control."

The SMBRPD Help Desk will release the requested documents after DTSC's Accounting Office has processed the payment. If you have any questions regarding the process for ordering documents or for tracking your request, please contact the SMBRPD Help Desk at (916) 323-3400.

Please note the Site Mitigation Program Brownfields Reuse Program /SMBRPD Help Desk cannot accept payment for requested documents. Checks sent to the SMBRPD Help Desk will be returned to the requestor thus delaying delivery. DTSC will expedite requests by returning documents purchased by Federal Express, or Overnight Mail using the purchaser's account number.

Contact the Headquarters Office SMBRPD Help Desk for information and purchasing documents:

Site Mitigation Program Brownfields Reuse Program/SMBRPD Help Desk
1001 A@Street, 11th Floor
P. O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
Phone - (916) 323-3400
FAX - (916) 323-3391

Regional Offices

Individuals wishing to review site file information may contact the Regional Office where the site file is located and arrange for an appointment to review documents during normal business hours. Please contact the following staff to arrange for document reviews:

Sacramento

File Room Technician
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758

Glendale

File Room Technician
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
(818) 551-2886

Berkeley

File Room Technician
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800

Cypress

File Room Technician
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630
(714) 484-5337